

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The Abstract of the disclosure stands objected to because it is in claim format.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yoshie* (U.S. Patent No. 6,634,536).

Claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in this Office Action to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the Abstract of the disclosure. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are presently pending.

The Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract of the disclosure stands objected to because it is in claim format. Applicants have amended the Abstract in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is understood that there are two wing pieces, one on each side of the table, and therefore by extension two locking means. For example, “a wing piece formed on each side of the table; locking means formed between the wing piece of the table and the main body frame, . . . wherein the locking means comprises a lock plate including a locking pin engageable with the wing piece at one end thereof and supported by the main body frame at other end side thereof,” as recited in claim 2 describes a wing piece and a locking means on each side. This is also true for claims 1, 4, and 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Yoshie*. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action incorrectly identified *Yoshie* as a § 102(e) reference. *Yoshie* should be identified as a § 102(b) reference since *Yoshie*'s issue date (10/21/03) is more than one year before the filing date (12/22/04) of the present invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action's rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by *Yoshie* is not well explained or accurate. The Office Action identifies 201 as a locking means, 210 as a table, and 212 as a wing piece in *Yoshie*, but *Yoshie* identifies 201 as the

clinch link, 210 as the clincher guide, and 212 as a side plate portion. Applicants do not believe the Office Action accurately describes the operation or the claimed features in *Yoshie*. For example, *Yoshie* does not meet the “locking means formed between the wing piece of the table and the main body frame,” features as recited in claim 1.

Applicants consider that a side plate does not correspond to wing piece which is directly engaged to a lock portion like a locking pin. Since a member corresponding to the lock portion is not directly engaged, the movement of the locking means is same by comparison of *Yoshie* and the present invention, but the structure is different.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

The Objection to Claims 2-5

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5 are allowable because the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in this Office Action have been adequately addressed and overcome.

CONCLUSION

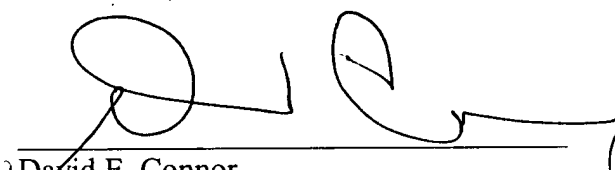
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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